

COMMUNITY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

DATE: September 15, 2009

CALLED TO ORDER: 5:32 p.m.

ADJOURNED: 6:06 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

ATTENDING MEMBERS

Mike Speedy, Chair
Paul Bateman
Susie Day
Maggie Lewis

ABSENT

Kent Smith
Benjamin Hunter
Doris Minton-McNeill

AGENDA

PROPOSAL NO. 334, 2009 - appoints Kristin Lee Sims to the Marion County Children's Guardian Home Reuse Authority
"Do Pass" Vote: 4-0

PROPOSAL NO. 335, 2009 - amends the Code with respect to expenditures from the Marion County Children's Guardian Home Donation and Cash Change Funds
"Do Pass" Vote: 4-0

BUDGET HEARING

Review and Analysis

PROPOSAL NO. 321, 2009 - adopts the annual budget for the City of Indianapolis and Marion County for 2010 (Community Affairs portion only)
"Do Pass as Amended" Vote: 4-0

COMMUNITY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

The Community Affairs Committee of the City-County Council met on Tuesday, September 15, 2009. Chair Mike Speedy called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m. with the following members present: Paul Bateman, Susie Day, and Maggie Lewis. Absent were Benjamin Hunter, Doris Minton-McNeill and Kent Smith. Also in attendance was Councillor Joanne Sanders, Robert Elrod, General Counsel and Jim Steele, Chief Financial Officer (CFO) representing Council staff.

PROPOSAL NO. 334, 2009 - appoints Kristin Lee Sims to the Marion County Children's Guardian Home Reuse Authority

Ms. Sims stated that she has lived in Irvington for 14 years. She said that she has been involved in the community through positions on the Irvington Community Council and the Irvington Garden Club. Ms. Sims said that the Guardian's Home is located around the corner from her home and all of the neighbors have a deep concern as to what happens to the building.

Councillor Day moved, seconded by Councillor Bateman, to send Proposal No. 334, 2009 to the full Council with a "Do Pass" recommendation. The motion carried by a vote of 4-0.

PROPOSAL NO. 335, 2009 - amends the Code with respect to expenditures from the Marion County Children's Guardian Home Donation and Cash Change Funds

Rosie Butler, Director, Marion County Children's Guardian Home, stated that with the closing of the program at the Guardian Home, the building is still open and operating with herself, an assistant and volunteers of the Reuse Committee. She said that the donor account is a private donation account that was established in 2005 to receive funds from the community. Ms. Butler stated that this account was a way to keep track of those funds and hold her accountable in the expenditure of funds. She said that with this account, she reports quarterly to the Marion County Commissioners on the expenditures of that account. She said that since there is no longer a program, very little expenditures come from that account. In reviewing how the ordinance was written, they realized that they are not able to expend any funds from those accounts because of the closing of the program and no children in the building.

Ms. Butler stated that the Guardian Home receives funds throughout the years specifically designated for school supplies, clothing and other needs for the children. She said that they also receive a generous amount of money that is not designated, and those funds can be used to assist in the upkeep of the building. Ms. Butler discussed a handout (attached as Exhibit A) of how the donor dollars are spent. She said that the first figure is the total amount donated; the second figure is the amount that was specifically designated for providing for the children; and the third figure is the direct spending that the Guardian Home did for the children. She said that each year they exceeded the amount that was designated. Chair Speedy stated that it shows that they spent less than what was donated, so the fund balance has been going up over the last couple of years. Ms. Butler stated that when the account opened in 2005 the estate totaled over \$100,000. She said due to expenditures over the years, they now have less than the \$100,000.

Councillor Sanders stated that the intent of this account was to make sure that the expenditures relative to donations were accounted for and transparent. She said that there was a concern when the decision was made to no longer place children in the Guardian Home. Prior to the Guardian Home closing if maintenance was needed on the building, and children were in the building, it would certainly benefit those children and there would likely be no question. Councillor Sanders stated that since the children were removed from the building, it still needs to be maintained and it does not make sense to let the building fall into disrepair. She said that this change gives Ms. Butler the ability to provide maintenance on the building soon because of storm damage to the roof. She said that there is no source of funding in the county to provide for that.

Councillor Bateman asked if there is any insurance for the building to pay for the damages to the building. Ms. Butler stated that the county is self-insured and there is a \$100,000 deductible per building. It will take \$15,000 to fix the building.

Councillor Bateman asked where the designated dollars are coming from. Ms. Butler stated that they come from private donor dollars that either come from estates, individuals, or companies. Councillor Bateman stated that money is still coming in. He asked if those funds can be used for other children's organizations. Ms. Butler stated that the funds come to the Guardian Home, and if they are not able to reopen the building, then the Commissioners will have to make the decision as to what the money is used for.

Councillor Lewis asked if the Council can ethically use these dollars that have been designated for the children for capital improvement. Ms. Butler stated that designated funds specifically for children have been expended for children. She said that undesignated funds give them the opportunity to do capital improvements to the building.

Councillor Day asked if there is any more designated money for children. Ms. Butler stated that it has been spent. She said that she has also returned funds to donors that were designated for children because of the closing of the program.

Councillor Sanders stated that when this fund was created in 2005, no one anticipated the ruling that children will not be sent to the Guardian Home. She said that if that was known at that time, there might have been more generic language used in the proposal. She said that this account was for the benefit of the Guardian Home. Councillor Sanders stated that because children were in the Guardian Home, it never occurred to anyone that there would still be unrestricted use of funds should there not be any children in the home.

Larry Vaughn, citizen, stated that there are organizations in this city that can receive those funds and use them for the purpose that they were intended for. He said that this is what happens to the city, when an entity comes before the Council they are not being quizzed enough on where the money is being spent. He said that there are grassroots organizations that can use some of those funds.

Chair Speedy stated that he has full confidence that these funds will be used for the benefit of the Guardian Home. He said that the proposal simply removes four words, "the children residing at"; otherwise the money is to be used strictly for the benefit of the Guardian Home.

Councillor Bateman stated that his concern is also why the money could not be given to another organization to help children. He said that as he reads the ordinance, he understands why it was written that way. He said that he would have preferred that the money go to another organization.

Kathryn Stewart, citizen, stated that she is the attorney for the estate of an Irvington resident, who in her will, left money to the Guardian Home. She stated that the will instructed that money to go to the Guardian Home. Ms. Stewart stated that is why the account was set up so there would be checks and balances and no money spent without knowledge of the Commission. She said that only a small amount of money can be used at a time without getting permission. Ms. Stewart stated that the concern is that this money not be put into the county funds to be distributed until a determination has been made regarding the Guardian Home. She said that if there is a reuse of the Guardian Home that serves abused and neglected children then hopefully these funds will be used for that entity.

Councillor Bateman moved, seconded by Councillor Day, to send Proposal No. 335, 2009 to the full Council with a "Do Pass" recommendation. The motion carried by a vote of 4-0.

Review and Analysis

PROPOSAL NO. 321, 2009 - adopts the annual budget for the City of Indianapolis and Marion County for 2010 (Community Affairs portion only)

Chair Speedy stated that the committee has heard several different budgets that have already been presented in-depth. He added that the Office of Finance and Management (OFM) and city staff has been very helpful in answering questions and getting additional information to committee members, so that they can make informed decisions. Chair Speedy stated that there is an amendment dealing with the Marion County Fair budget. He said that they have historically received around \$120,000 from the city, and it has been dropping a few years in increments of \$20,000. He said that they have had to make capital improvements associated with adding sewers and they have been responsible for those fees. Chair Speedy stated that the Fair has had to take out loans to pay-off those bills and their debt service payments have started this year and will continue on for five years, leaving no additional funds for the Fair to make other capital improvements. Chair Speedy stated that the general consensus by many is to restore a layer to their budget from \$80,000 to \$100,000 that would service debt associated with paying connections fees and other items.

William Dowden, Fair Board member, stated that the Marion County Fair attempts to maintain the heritage of Marion County. He said that putting in the sewers it was a \$300,000 project. Mr. Dowden stated that the fair has received \$80,000 from the county, but they had to pay back \$87,000 in sewer and water fees. He said that they would greatly appreciate part of their budget being restored.

Councillor Day moved, seconded by Councillor Bateman, to "Amend" the community Affairs portion of Proposal No. 321, 2009, per Exhibit A. The motion carried by a vote of 4-0.

Councillor Day moved, seconded by Councillor Bateman, to send the Community Affairs portion of Proposal No. 321, 2009 to the full Council with a "Do Pass as Amended" recommendation. The motion carried by a vote of 4-0.

With no further business pending, and upon motion duly made, the Community Affairs Committee of the City County Council was adjourned at 6:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Speedy, Chair
Community Affairs Committee

MS/law

**Marion County Children's Guardian Home
DONOR DOLLARS**

**SUMMARY
2007 – 2009**

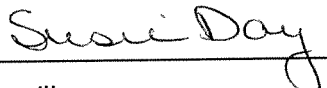
2007: Total Donated	\$38,489.14	
Designated \$	\$ 2,601.57	
Total Direct Spending	\$ 16,996.62	for Children
2008: Total Donated	\$41,515.12	
Designated \$	\$ 2,077.61	
Total Direct Spending	\$17,512.92	for Children
2009: Total Donated	\$19,540.02	
Designated \$	\$ 1,136.46	
Total Direct Spending	\$ 3,726.79	for Children

Proposal No 321, 2009
MOTION TO AMEND

EXHIBIT A

Mr. Chairman:

I respectfully move to amend Proposal No. 321, 2009, as introduced and before this committee, to restore the full appropriation from the County Administrator to the Marion County Fair Board (an additional \$20,000) by the revisions to Section 1.04 (a) on page 11, by deleting the figures stricken-through and replacing them with the double underlined numbers, as shown below.


Councillor

SECTION 1.04 Marion County – Constitutional Officers - Appropriations.

For the expenses of certain Constitutional Officers of Marion County government and its institutions for the calendar year beginning January 1, 2010, and ending December 31, 2010, the sums of money set out in this section are hereby appropriated and ordered set apart out of the several respective funds herein named for the purposes herein specified, subject to the laws governing the same. The sums so appropriated shall be held to include all such expenditures authorized to be made during said calendar year, unless otherwise expressly stipulated and provided by law.

(a) County Administrator

	<u>char 1</u>	<u>char 2</u>	<u>char 3</u>	<u>char 4</u>	<u>char 5</u>
County General Fund	-	-	6,345,271 <u>6,365,271</u>	-	- <u>6,345,271</u>
Local Emergency Planning and Right to Know Fund	-	-	110,000	-	- <u>110,000</u>
Totals for this agency	-	-	6,455,271 <u>6,475,271</u>	-	- <u>6,455,271</u>